

MI-TRALE NEWS

P.O. Box 43

Ontonagon, MI 49953-0043

SEPTEMBER 2013

www.mi-trale.org

Under the PRESIDENT's HELMET

For the past year your elected board has been working hard to build strong partnerships with multiple groups and agencies. We feel that this is important to make certain that our sport continues to grow and be supported. I thought that I would take a moment to update you on this work.

Ottawa National Forest: MI-TRALE has a master agreement signed with the Ottawa that allows us to collaborate with them in the development and the protection of our natural resources. We are working with them on several key forest projects. Two such projects are the Pori Vegetation Project and the Interior Project. A prime example of the importance of this partnership is the full cooperation that was provided by the Ottawa National Forest in the development and completion of the new East Connector. We know that without their full support, we would not even *have* this new 70 mile trail never mind its being completed on time for its opening date.

Michigan DNR: MI-TRALE has been working closely with all departments of the DNR, including Forestry and Parks & Recreation. Their partnership with MI-TRALE is critical in defining new trail systems and also maintaining our current trails. This ensures a safe, enjoyable ride for each of our members and guests. An example of the importance of this partnership was their quick approval of the new EC ORV Route as a Michigan *designated route*. The timing was critical (very short) to guarantee that proper signing could be in place for the opening on August 31, 2013. We greatly appreciate that the DNR stepped up and made it happen.

Local Counties: The 5 counties in which MI-TRALE manages trails allows us the opportunity to partner with those various government agencies. An example of this is the development and installation of the 1st Responder Signing Project. MI-TRALE organized several meetings that included representatives from each of the 5 counties and the Michigan State Police. We wanted assurance that each county, and the 1st Responders, were all in agreement and supported the 1st Responder Signing Project. MI-TRALE is also starting a group in Ontonagon County called the "Ontonagon County Recreational Advisory Group". The purpose of this group is to advise the county of recreational opportunities that can benefit the services in the area. The group is made up of representatives from local government and clubs.

These partnerships are being built to ensure that our sport has a long-term future in the Western UP. Your board welcomes your suggestions and involvement on helping these partnerships to grow. We cannot do this alone.

Now go out and enjoy your trails~Ride safe and have fun!

Don Helsel – Your President

One event concerning **our President**, deserves its own special mention. We are very proud to say that he is now a member of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Workgroup (ORVAW). **Don** received a letter dated July 11, 2013 from Jim Radabaugh, MDNR State Trails Coordinator, stating that **he** had been appointed to serve on the workgroup by Frank Wheatlake, MDNR Chairman of the Michigan Snow-mobile & Trails Advisory Council (MSTAC). Wheatlake has given **Don** a one-year term that will expire July 1, 2014. In the letter, Radabaugh expressed to **Don** the thanks of the MDNR with the following statement, "Your interest to serve on the workgroup and represent the Upper Peninsula ORV trail riding community is very much appreciated by the Department of Natural Resources." We also appreciate the extra work that this entails for **our President** and are honored that **he** was chosen to be a part of this important workgroup! Congratulate him when you see him!

BOARD of DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT – Don Helsel
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EDITOR – Donna Wolf
donnaann.wolf@yahoo.com

2013 Dates to Remember

Club Meetings – 7:pm EST
First Monday of the month
NO MEETING – OCTOBER
It's time for our BANQUET !
Nov 4th Twillys-Bruce Crossing

Senior Ride
Thurs. September 26th

Membership/Awards Banquet
Sat. Oct 12th – at the Konteka
in White Pine MI (See Pg. 3!)

Annual Meeting and Elections
January 6th 2014 – Gogebic
Lodge

!!! NEW VICE-PRESIDENT FOR BOD !!!

Wanting to spend more time with his family, Tom Chase resigned his position as Vice-President of our Board. We have reluctantly accepted same. We thank Tom for his service and wish him well in all his future endeavors. Jim Altenburg has graciously assumed the responsibility of fulfilling the remainder of Tom's term of office after his nomination & subsequent unanimous vote of approval to do so occurred at the July monthly meeting.

**MI-TRALE NEW MEMBER KHRIS KENNEDY
NOW A DIRECTOR ON THE BOARD**

Khris (& his wife Brenda!) recently joined MI-TRALE and have been very active working on the trails. With Jim Altenburg stepping into the VP position, his seat on the BOD needed to be filled. Khris expressed his desire to become more directly involved w/the running of the club. His nomination and unanimous vote of approval to fill that position also occurred at the July meeting.

() EQUINE UPDATE ()

*Camp 'n' Ride Weekend***
Fri OCT 4th & Sat OCT 5th
Call Cathy Wainio 906-988-2232

~~~~~  
Many thanks to our new member Janet Miesbauer for her work as a trail spotter on the Courtney.

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Logging operations are taking place in the forest near the Courtney EQ Trails. Please inform your horse-riding friends and be careful out there!

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\*\*Organized by your EQ friends and supported by MI-TRALE

***Pioneer Trail***

**to benefit from**

**\$9,800.00 RAC Grant !**

***Work to begin Spring 2014***

**THANK YOU TO YAMAHA**

Cost of the new, soon-to-be-installed, 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Signs is being covered by a grant from Yamaha Motor Corporation. We greatly appreciate their subsidy of this important project that helps to further secure the safety of all those who ride our trails. **THANK YOU!**

**ATV SAFETY  
CLASSES  
COMING SOON**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**New VP Jim Altenburg  
Now DNR Certified Instructor**

**\*\*\*\*\***

First Class will be held 8:am-3:pm  
SAT Oct 19<sup>th</sup> in Greenland, MI  
Class FREE-Pizza lunch provided

See our website for full details!

**RECOGNITION PRIZES**

**FOR MEMBER**

**VOLUNTEER TRAIL WORKERS**

**\$50 Gift Certificates to HEADWATERS POLARIS**

**Donated by Director Russ Diethert**

**All members who assist w/trail work are eligible to win 1 of these certificates ~ Names are drawn monthly at meetings.**

**CONTACT TRAIL MGR. MIKE SCHULZ TO VOLUNTEER**

**3 CHEERS for these 3 LADIES**

**CATHY WAINIO, JANET  
MIESBAUER & LINDA SCHULZ**

That wrote & submitted a STEP grant from American Quarter Horse Association and Tractor Supply for improvements to our Courtney Horse Trails !

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Here's hoping  
for its speedy approval !

**THE BLUFF CREEK BRIDGE PROJECT**

Piece by piece we are building another North-South connector with our LL Trail. When we are done putting all the pieces together this trail will run from Land O'Lakes, WI to Bruce Crossing, MI. Sept 5<sup>th</sup> we completed building the bridge across Bluff Creek which was one of the gaps we needed to fill. Trail users were riding through the creek, now they have a bridge! Most materials and labor were donated: 2-40ft steel beams, 120 railroad ties, miscellaneous parts and LOTS of volunteer labor and equipment! A BIG "Thank YOU!" to all who helped! The next piece of this trail is through the Ottawa National Forest to connect to Paulding. This trail is already out in a scoping letter and should be ready next Summer. We have another piece in Watersmeet we're hoping to resolve this Winter.

Keep your fingers crossed that it ALL will be open by the end of 2014!

**EC CONNECTOR**

Opening Day "Christening" Ride  
took place as scheduled  
SAT AUG 31<sup>st</sup>

Don Helsel, Linda & Mike Schulz and Khris & Brenda Kennedy were reps for MI-TRALE on the ride-which also included one of Senator Casperson's aides!

Our group had lunch at the Lower Dam and saw a number of other riders out enjoying the EC that beautiful day...

Get on out & enjoy it yourself !

## ## Side-by-Sides ## ##

**Still NEEDED for Senior Ride**

**PLEASE CONTACT KIM SIMS ASAP**

at (906) 884-2877 or [godsgrace0927@yahoo.com](mailto:godsgrace0927@yahoo.com)

if you &/or your machine can be donated to give some Seniors a ride to

**View the Fall Colors!**

Thursday SEPTEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> is FAST approaching !!

**YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED !!!**

## *Membership / Awards Banquet*

Come one...Come ALL...

...and CELEBRATE *all of your Club's 2013 accomplishments!*

**WHERE: The Konteka in White Pine, MI**

**WHEN: SAT October 12<sup>th</sup> – Social Hour 5:-6:pm EDT / Dinner 6:pm EDT**

**MENU: 8oz Steak w/Choice of Potato\*, Soup, Salad Bar, Dessert, Milk & Coffee**

**RSVP: ASAP (to make sure you're in on the fun!) -or- LATEST Oct 4<sup>th</sup>**

**TO Linda Schulz (906) 827-3208 or [lschulz@runningbearresort.com](mailto:lschulz@runningbearresort.com)**

**COST: \$16.00 per person – Please mail payment when you RSVP to:  
(INCLUDES TAX & TIP) MI-TRALE, P.O. Box 43, Ontonagon, MI 49953-0043**

*Awards ~~ Guest Speakers ~~ Raffles*

*Enjoy dinner & the company of your fellow Club Members!*

*Make your plans NOW~~We'd love to see you there!*

**\*Vegetarian Plate Option available – Please specify when you RSVP**